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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE.

BULLETIN NO. 8 OF 1947.

Persons Receiving Unemployment Benefit, December, 1946.

By arrangement with the Commonwealth Statistician the following figures are available from his detailed tabulations of unemployed persons in Queensland who are in receipt of unemployment benefit. The tabulations show districts of residence, together with causes of unemployment and industries within each district. This Bulletin deals only with those in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those awaiting benefits or those who do not apply. The figures shown here, therefore, cover only a part of the total unemployment field, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Those receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The December figures show an increase of 2,475 over November, and 3,239 over October, as follows:-

<u>End of Month.</u>		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
October	.. ..	2,814	86	2,900
November	.. ..	3,570	94	3,664
December	.. ..	5,971	168	6,139

Figures earlier than October do not give a normal comparison as they were inflated by strikes in June and July.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of December, 1946 was 168 compared with 94 in November. The Rockhampton District figure rose from 21 in November to 82 in December, of whom 66 were previously employed in meatworks. In addition to these there were 18 in Brisbane district, 14 in Ipswich district, 15 in Maryborough district and 39 spread through the rest of the State.

The increase in seasonal unemployment became more pronounced during December as will be seen from the following figures which show the chief causes of unemployment in October, November, and December and the increase during December due to each cause.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>October.</u>	<u>November.</u>	<u>December.</u>	<u>Increase in December.</u>
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy ..	109	116	116	-
Inefficiency, incompetence	112	113	136	23
Establishment closed, reduction of staff ..	491	595	714	119
Replaced by re-instated servicemen	116	120	134	14
Shortage of materials ..	130	171	240	69
Seasonal work and weather conditions	276	727	2,363	1,636
Casual work	495	520	781	261
Discharged or laid off for other reasons	438	428	478	50
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc.	231	286	405	119
Quitted for other reasons ..	179	197	278	81
Not previously employed ..	323	391	494	103
	2,900	3,664	6,139	2,475

The increases due to establishments being closed and to casual work could also be connected with seasonal work, but apart from this there were fair increases in numbers who quitted their jobs and in the numbers who had not previously been employed.

Comparison of the increase in the totals receiving benefit in each district in December further stresses the seasonal nature of the rise in benefit payments. The following figures show districts which increased by more than 100 during December, arranged by size of increase.

<u>District.</u>		<u>November.</u>	<u>December.</u>	<u>Increase.</u>
Rockhampton	..	345	853	508
Mackay ..	..	256	629	373
Brisbane	..	1,650	1,963	313
Bundaberg	..	288	550	262
Cairns ..	..	179	415	236
Townsville	..	171	335	164
Innisfail	..	37	195	158

Apart from Brisbane all these areas are sugar or meatworks districts. All sugar and meatworks districts (not only those listed above) accounted for a rise of 1,811 out of a total State rise of 2,475, i.e., more than two-thirds of the rise. It should be mentioned that the Rockhampton figures reflect the easing off of operations at meatworks in both Rockhampton and Gladstone.

Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. I) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. The totals along the bottom of the sheet show the numbers unemployed from each cause while the totals on the right show the numbers unemployed in each district, and the number unemployed per 10,000 population in main groups of districts. The Brisbane district figure is still the highest but due to the increase in other areas, it now represents a smaller proportion of its population than is the case for the State as a whole. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows the high figure for the north coast sugar areas, the central meat areas and the south coast sugar areas.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. II shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. The totals at the foot of the sheet give the numbers in each industry group for the State. Food and drink factories have the highest total (nearly 30 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit) and the bulk of this is in meatworks and sugar mills. This is followed by agriculture, pastoral and dairying (about 20 per cent. of the total), building and construction, discharged servicemen and ex-employees of Australian and Allied forces (mostly in Brisbane).

During December in the north coast sugar areas, there was a rise of 404 in sugar mills and 462 on farms. In Rockhampton, meatworks unemployment increased by 421, while in the south coast sugar areas mill unemployment increased by 95 and field labour by 119. The numbers were well distributed through the other industry groups in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Townsville districts.

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Acting Government Statistician.

BRISBANE,

17th March, 1947.

TABLE I. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
DECEMBER, 1946.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off.								Quitted.		Not previously employed.	Total.	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		Number.	Per 10,000 Population.
Brisbane ..	47	97	412	66	127	132	243	298	177	108	256	1,963	
Ipswich ..	5	3	33	9	15	16	24	19	18	14	34	190	
Moreton	52	100	445	75	142	148	267	317	195	122	290	2,153	41
Gympie ..	.	1	3	2	1	6	2	1	2	1	2	21	
Maryborough	2	2	20	6	9	51	36	20	11	16	34	207	
Bundaberg ..	2	6	21	4	16	350	82	6	30	14	19	550	
S.E. Coastal	4	9	44	12	26	407	120	27	43	31	55	778	70
Toowoomba ..	9	2	13	7	12	25	20	12	19	14	19	152	
Warwick ..	.	2	9	1	3	12	4	1	2	6	2	42	
Roma ..	.	.	.	1	1	10	7	2	1	2	.	24	
Charleville	.	.	1	.	2	46	12	1	6	2	5	75	
Downs and S.W.	9	4	23	9	18	93	43	16	28	24	26	293	20
Rockhampton	6	6	57	12	36	491	82	43	32	34	54	853	
Emerald ..	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	1	2	.	5	
Longreach ..	.	4	3	.	.	78	12	4	9	4	3	117	
Central ..	6	10	61	12	36	570	94	47	42	40	57	975	97
Mackay ..	11	5	16	4	4	391	122	22	19	12	23	629	
Myr ..	1	.	7	1	.	62	2	1	5	6	3	88	
Townsville	8	8	27	8	3	154	47	21	27	21	11	335	
Ingham ..	.	.	1	2	.	32	7	.	4	2	1	49	
Innisfail ..	3	.	8	1	.	153	10	3	8	4	5	195	
Bairns ..	12	.	60	4	4	279	21	10	12	7	6	415	
N. Coastal	35	13	119	20	11	1,071	209	57	75	52	49	1,711	113
Barter's Towers	8	.	9	5	6	47	30	9	15	5	11	145	
Whitharton ..	2	.	12	.	.	11	13	4	3	4	6	55	
Loughenden ..	.	.	1	1	1	16	5	1	4	.	.	29	
North West	10	.	22	6	7	74	48	14	22	9	17	229	48
TOTAL STATE	116	136	714	134	240	2,363	781	478	405	278	494	6,139	57

TABLE II. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
DECEMBER, 1946.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying.	Other Primary (including mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building & Construction.	Shipping & Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	68	24	209	338	119	126	78	83	145	79	255	107	208	124	1,963
Ipswich ..	12	8	12	17	16	42	1	9	5	12	8	8	24	16	190
Moreton ..	80	32	221	355	135	168	79	92	150	91	263	115	232	140	2,153
Gympie ..	5	1	1	4	3	2	.	.	.	3	1	1	.	.	21
Maryborough	22	10	9	53	21	28	12	5	3	6	.	12	22	4	207
Bundaberg ..	220	32	8	173	7	44	24	7	3	10	2	8	8	4	550
S.E. Coastal	247	43	18	230	31	74	36	12	6	19	3	21	30	8	778
Toowoomba ..	26	4	10	24	6	24	.	3	9	6	6	6	17	11	152
Warwick ..	19	.	3	3	2	4	.	.	2	3	2	1	1	2	42
Roma ..	13	.	.	3	.	2	.	4	.	.	1	1	.	.	24
Charleville	55	4	.	3	2	4	.	.	2	2	.	1	2	.	75
Downs and S.W.	113	8	13	33	10	34	.	7	13	11	9	9	20	13	293
Rockhampton	60	14	10	533	17	42	55	11	24	30	3	15	28	11	853
Emerald ..	2	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	5
Longreach ..	98	1	.	2	1	7	.	1	1	.	.	3	2	1	117
Central ..	160	15	10	536	18	50	55	12	25	30	3	18	30	13	975
Mackay ..	226	7	5	203	12	32	86	5	4	7	6	9	16	11	629
Ayr ..	44	1	1	23	2	7	.	3	1	.	.	1	2	3	88
Townsville	20	4	14	155	14	34	15	8	17	10	21	14	4	5	335
Ingham ..	8	2	1	29	.	4	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	2	49
Innisfail ..	111	4	1	52	3	9	3	2	.	.	1	7	2	.	195
Cairns ..	205	13	5	90	18	41	2	11	4	6	1	9	3	7	415
N. Coastal	614	31	27	552	49	127	106	30	26	24	29	41	27	28	1,711
Charters Towers	26	6	.	40	4	31	1	6	.	4	4	4	7	12	145
Atherton ..	9	12	.	9	3	17	.	2	.	1	.	2	.	.	55
Hughenden	21	1	.	2	1	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	29
North West	56	19	.	51	8	49	1	9	1	5	4	6	7	13	229
TOTAL STATE	1,270	148	289	1,757	251	502	277	162	221	180	311	210	346	215	6,139

S/T 1980